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10

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,540	11/24/2003	Johannes W.M. Jacobs	0142-0438P	1810
2292	7590	06/15/2007		
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			EXAMINER	
PO BOX 747			DANG, DUY M	
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/15/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

[mailroom@bskb.com](mailto:mailroom@bskb.com)

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/718,540	JACOBS, JOHANNES W.M.	
	Examiner Duy M. Dang	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-9 and 15-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 10-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/24/03
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### *Specification*

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claim 10 as a representative claim, it recites "a computer program product embodied on at least one computer-readable medium" at lines 1-2. Normally, claim 10 is directed to a statutory subject matter and thus meets 101 requirement. However, paragraph [0107] of the instant specification (last 5 lines of page 25 to first 4 lines of page 26) states as follows:

*"Such computer program(s) may be stored in memories such as RAM, ROM, PROM, etc. associated with computers. Alternatively, such computer program(s) may be stored in a different storage medium such as a magnetic disc, optical disc, magneto-optical disc, etc. Such computer program(s) may also take the form of a signal propagating across the Internet, extranet, intranet or other network and arriving at the destination device for storage and implement."*

Art Unit: 2624

So, the claimed “computer program” is considered as “a signal” embodied on a computer readable medium. This type of claim do recite nothing but a signal which is the physical characteristics of a form of energy, such as a frequency, voltage, or the strength of a magnetic field, define energy or magnetism, per se, and as such are nonstatutory natural phenomena.

O'Reilly, 56 U.S. (15 How.) at 112-14. Moreover, a signal does not fall within one of the four statutory classes of Sec. 101 (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter)

Therefore, signal claims are ineligible for patent protection because they do not fall within any of the four statutory classes of Sec. 101. Furthermore, since the full scope of the claim as properly read in light of the disclosure encompasses non-statutory subject matter, the claim as a whole is non-statutory. In order to overcome this rejection, applicant is advised to cancel claims or amend the specification to exclude such non-statutory subject matter.

Any amendment to the claim should be commensurate with its corresponding disclosure.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Atkinson (USPN 6,633,669) and Jacobs et al. (USPN 4,849,910) teaches the same field of invention.

5. Claims 1-9 and 15-19 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest claimed feature of “a method of segmenting a composite image of pixels into a number of fields corresponding to layout elements of the image, the pixels having a value representing an intensity and/or color of a

Art Unit: 2624

picture element, the method comprising: finding field separators corresponding to areas of adjacent pixels of the image, having a predefined property indicative of a background of the image; extending the field separators along at least one separation direction to an outer border of the image; constructing a tessellation grid of lines corresponding to the extended field separators; constructing a set of basic rectangles, a basic rectangle being an area enclosed by lines of the tessellation grid; and constructing the fields by connecting basic rectangles that are adjacent and not separated by a field separator.” Likewise, claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and thus are allowed for the same reasons.

Regarding claim 15, it is noted that this claim recites a device comprising all feature called for in claim 1 and thus, claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-19 are also allowed for the same reasons as set forth in claim 1 above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

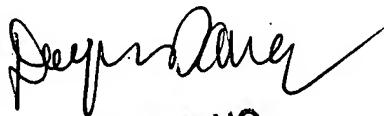
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duy M. Dang whose telephone number is 571-272-7389. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6:00AM to 2:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2624

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

dmd  
6/07

  
DUY M. DANG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER